

Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee
March 18, 2003

Members present:	Roger Thompson	John Forcier
	Allison Lowry	Rodney Pingree
	Dave Cotton	Steve Revell
	Jeff Williams	Kim Crosby
	Phil Dechert	Alan Huizenga
	Gerry Kittle	

Others attending:	Frank O'Brien	Marilyn Davis
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Scheduled meetings:

April 1, 2003	1-4 PM	100 Stanley Hall
April 15, 2003	1-4 PM	Skylight Conference Room
April 29, 2003	1-4 PM	Secretary's Conf. Rm. Osgood Building

Review of Agenda –

The agenda was reviewed and it was decided to add a discussion of the proposed language from the Lamoille County RPC and a discussion of the Department web page.

Review of Minutes –

The minutes of the March 5, 2003 meeting were reviewed. Rodney asked that the minutes be clear that the Water Supply Division requires GPS readings for the installed location of the well. It was also requested that the section on well locations make it clear that readings taken after the well is drilled is not unacceptable, only that they also need to be located as part of the approval process prior to construction. Roger will revise the minutes.

Legislative update –

Roger reviewed the status of H.319. It has passed the House and is now at the Senate Natural Resources Committee. The bill would extend the buildout date from 11-1-2002 to 11-1-2004, slightly modify the designer's certification language and require the Commissioner of Taxes to provide notices about the statutory changes that occurred in 2002 to all town clerks who would be required to include the notice in all tax bills. Dave asked if the Agency was going to request authority to license installers. Roger and Marilyn said that this had been discussed with Chris Recchia after the legislative decision in May 2002 to remove it from the proposed legislation. Chris had said the Department would live with the decision for a while but could propose it again if there are problems with the current arrangement. There was quite a bit of support from the committee to

push this issue forward. Marilyn mentioned the public process issues related to the permit reform legislation. She noted that some of the proposals would add a public process to all state permits including the regional office permits for subdivision of land and for public buildings.

Zoning for Wells –

Phil gave a review of some language related to water supplies the planners association had drafted that could be incorporated into a town's regulations. The language started with a goal of having the required isolation from wastewater systems on the lot containing the well site. If this could not be arranged, the language would require the well to be located so that the neighbors could develop a wastewater system to the extent possible. This led to a discussion of the effects on neighboring owners and Steve asked about impacts on neighbors and how they would respond if they started receiving public notice of proposed wells. Rodney noted that this was already required for public wells and while there is sometimes opposition, the rules do not include this as a factor in the decision.

Designers who are not engineers –

John said that Brad Aldrich had reviewed the draft and did not have any comments. Alan asked if the language related to what non-engineers could design for sewer lines created a conflict with the definition of collection sewer. Frank said he had checked this and the current language no longer has the provision that building sewers over 300' were collection sewers as had been true in the 1996 rules. John asked that the section related to pressure sewers be slightly reworded to make it clear what is allowed. Dave asked that the rules be clear about what is, and what is not, a site modification so class A and class B designers will know exactly what work they can perform. The rules should also clarify which systems installers can inspect and certify. Allison and Dave said that class A have been allowed to design pump stations but not pressure distribution systems. Roger will bring revised language to the next meeting.

Well driller's subcommittee –

Rodney and Jeff reviewed the results of the subcommittee meeting that occurred earlier in the day. Roger had a handout of talking points that might lead to a draft proposal for well drillers to select replacement well sites for existing, unpermitted single family homes. Rodney also gave out copies of his draft of a form to be used by a well driller and a landowner to make sure the questions related to permits and well site selection were answered and documented. Jeff noted that the elements of the discussion included the knowledge level needed by the well driller including an understanding of the well shield concept, use of a sketch with measured distances unless an existing plan to scale was already available. Steve said there should be training and workshops to help well drillers learn the process. Steve noted that an understanding of what is happening in the top 2' of the soil would be important and that an amnesty type checklist would also be useful. Roger said that the goal would be to have a simplified application process for

these cases, whether a well driller or a designer did the work. Dave noted that the GPS well locations are not very precise and that it is better to drill on the staked location than to try and locate with a GPS unit. Steve agreed that it is much better to rely on the stake. Jeff noted that just setting the GPS unit correctly is an issue. The units work in several formats and they give different answers. John said that the designer should specify the reference system they are operating in and they should include the information from the screen about the expected accuracy for the particular reading. Roger noted that it is likely that the rules will be changed to allow other methods of determining the location. Rodney said there should be guidance that specifies that the information be provided in a particular format, such as min/sec and true north or magnetic north.

Water system storage designs by non-engineers

Jeff asked about the requirements when a gravity storage tank is needed so a single family home can treat for sulfur? Roger said that the issue was discussed at the previous meeting and strong majority of those present at that meeting had agreed that only engineers could design gravity storage tanks. Jeff asked about ground water heat pump situations. Allison noted that if the water is pumped out of the ground and then put back in the ground an Underground Injection Control Permit is required, though there is a general permit for flows up to 25, 000 GPD. Steve said that non-engineers should be able to design gravity storage systems for SFR. John agreed for most cases as long as treatment is not required. Dave said that the rules presumed that in most cases the storage would be provided with extra depth in the well itself. Jeff agreed but said that there are some rock formations where drilling deeper would encounter formations that would make the water quality worse. Jeff said that some well drilling companies routinely design and install storage systems and treatment systems. Several people who were at the previous meeting were not in attendance and several people in attendance were not at the previous meeting so it was decided that this topic would be discussed at the next meeting when hopefully everyone concerned about the topic could be heard.

Town delegation –

Roger reviewed the draft language that Marilyn had prepared. Marilyn also had a list of unresolved issues and copies of Karen Horn's comments to the previous draft. There are issues about whether a town must run an electronic tracking system. The agency might provide copies of their software but there would be no support for the system. Phil said that he had tracked permits in other formats that worked well. The possibility of doing a web based system was raised. There was discussion about a firm serving as the reviewer for a town and then reviewing work prepared by other members of the firm. This needs to be addressed in the language and the concept should be added to the designer language as well.

Draft municipal ordinance –

Roger said that he had not gotten any comments on the draft.

Procedures for referral of Professional Engineers to their board –

Roger briefly mentioned the handout and that the process had been developed so there would be 3 levels of review within the agency before anyone would be referred to the board. This was done intentionally to make sure that an engineer would not be singled out for some minor issues.

Feedback –

Dave said the web page is a good way to get information to designers and other people involved in development. Marilyn said that the IT people recently talked about a new web site organization that would have buttons leading to various functions of the agency. Steve noted that he had been getting some approvals for projects that had been pending for a long time and that new submissions had been approved very quickly. Steve also noted that he had just gone back to a site he had worked on in 1997 that could not meet the rules at the time and he was now able to get a permit under the new rules.